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WEDNESDAY
MARCH 31, 1954

Preston Grover came to see me this morning. He remains skeptical about any real intention on the part of Laniel to allow EDC to be debated unless he is driven to it by external, and especially internal, pressures. In this respect, he reflects what seems to be the prevalent attitude of the American correspondents in Paris, who have no confidence whatever in Laniel rising superior to his domestic political ambitions and preoccupations.

Henry Siegbert, who was deputy to Tom Finletter when the latter was ECA Chief in England, called on me. He is concerned, as is every thoughtful American who has travelled around Europe, with the harm McCarthyism has done to United States prestige abroad.

Harold Callender came to lunch with me. He is leaving next week for a vacation in the United States and will return to Paris the first week in June. He is an admirable reporter and has been steadfast in resisting any attempts to use his column for propaganda.

André de Staercke called me about the Juin incident. He has made his representations to the NATO Council, which is considering what, if any, action it should take. Juin's refusal to meet the Prime Minister is going to create a crisis here, at least in the Marshal's own affairs.

David Schoenbrun visited me this afternoon. He is leaving for Indo-China on the 10th of June. He says his bitter attacks on the failure of the Laniel Cabinet to fix a date for EDC debate have resulted in strong criticism of him. The French Government monitors his broadcasts and also his correspondence, and he has been asked on several occasions to stop what they call an unfair campaign based on charges of Governmental evasion and indecision on this issue.

Ridge Knight and myself had a delightful wine talk with Monsieur Poulain, of Nicolas. He gave me some welcome advice about cooling champagne. He says it should always be served at a temperature of between 8 and 10 degrees centigrade.

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If one wants to cool it rapidly, a bottle should be wrapped in a newspaper and plunged into a tub of ice, with water added. Salt should never be mixed in the tub.

The German EDC ratification instruments were deposited in Paris today. Tonight, Von Walther of the German Diplomatic Mission telephoned me to say a statement had been issued by the French Foreign Office to the effect that the ratification would not be complete until the Protocols were signed by President Heuss, directly or through delegation of his powers. Von Walther thinks this will cause perturbation in Bonn.

Also today, Alphand told Kit Steel of the URAS Ministers having informed Laniel that, should the French Government sign the EDC-U.K. Treaty of Association prior to the Easter recess, the URAS would not resign from the Cabinet but would cause the Government to fall on an extraneous issue.

Harvey saw Bidault last evening and the latter appeared to be worried. Bidault told Harvey that Laniel was now planning to sign the EDC/UK Treaty on April 12, i.e., once the Assembly had recessed. Bidault also expressed Laniel's hope that Eden would then make public his assurances in the House of Commons on April 14.

However, Laniel was also reported by Bidault as being disturbed over the following:

(a) Cabinet approval is required for signature of the Treaty;

(b) If the substance of the assurances is not known to the anti-EDC Ministers, they will doubtless find the Treaty inadequate;

(c) If they know the substance of these assurances, there is bound to be a leak before Eden's statement on the 14th.

The contradiction between Laniel's worries and his proposed schedule is obvious.

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The Embassy is wiring the above to the Department and Harvey has done the same to Whitehall.

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